Documentary on river valley development in NE States

†1720. SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of documentary proposal on river-valley development in North-Eastern States received during the last five years alongwith the action taken thereon;

(b) the proposals approved and turn-down out of these and the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for keeping the development work related proposals under consideration for a long time and then not refunding the required fee after their disapproval; and

(d) the action to be taken to refund the fee of the justifiably turn-down proposals?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) The Number of documentary proposals on Rivery Valley Development received in North Eastern States during the last five years are as follows:

Total Number of proposals received

1. Doordarshan Kendra, Guwahati	=	50
2. Programme Production Centre, Guwahati	=	2

(b) (i) Doordarshan Kendra, Guwahati approved only 15 proposals out of 50 proposals. The evaluation committee turned down the rest 35 proposals, as they were not found suitable for production.

(ii) Programme Production Centre, Guwahati received only two proposals and both were approved.

(c) No proposal is kept pending for consideration, Sir. Since, processing fee is non refundable, question of refund does not arise.

(d) Does not airse in view of reply to (c) above.

Educational channels on FM stations in hilly and remote areas

1721. SHRI T.T. V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to start educational channels on FM stations in hilly and remote areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) All India Radio does not have any plan to start exclusive FM Channels for educating students in the hilly and remote areas of the country. However, Government has signed an agreement with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) for operationalisation of FM stations for educational broadcast at 40 places, the details of which have been indicated in Statement I. (*See* below) Out of this, 26 are presently operational and in 3 places *viz.* Jamnagar, Ludhiana and Bhubaneshwar, IGNOU has decided not to set up FM stations. In addition, the Govt. has also agreed for setting up of FM stations for educational broadcasts by IGNOU at 15 more places as per details given in Statement-II (*See* below).